

Sound Recognition for New Readers

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This resource is for the reading student and the instructor, and can be used simply thus: memorize the written forms (spellings) of the 24 words in the right-hand column below (which may require some leverage). These words contain all the sounds used in the (American) English language. To advance knowledge of spelling, it will suffice to locate the sound in one these words in order to associate it with a new use of letters. The center and left-hand columns contain the phonetic characters and their alphabetic equivalents. These are numbered for ease of reference, and are provided only for that purpose. The unfamiliar phonetic symbols will only confuse the new reader. Variant sounds of the same letter (“hard” and “soft”) are included. Example(s) of the ubiquitous vowel *schwa* (ə) are absent, as the sound has little semantic value. Variant spellings are not included, except the most common and those preferred to their direct alphabetic equivalents, for example: “oo” vs. long ū (no. 30, not 43). Silent letters are excluded, except for final silent e, which could not be avoided. The constituent sounds of a language are called *phonemes*. Phoneme recognition is essential in learning to read.

consonants	vocalic consonants	words	sounds
01 p p	28 w w- = consonantal u	able ²	39 02 12
02 b b	29 y y- = consonantal i	arm	36 13 03
03 m m	vowels	blue ²	02 11 30
04 f f, ph	30 u ū, oo	box	02 37 25
05 v v	31 U ũ, oo	choose ²	19 30 09
06 t t	32 o o long	clothing	21 11 32 16 42 23
07 d d	33 ə ǝ	dawn	07 46 10
08 s s hard, c soft	34 ʌ ů, short a	exam	40 26 38 03
09 z z, s soft	35 ə ¹ e, a etc., as in the	foot	04 31 06
10 n n	36 ɑ a short	gauze ²	22 46 09
11 l l	37 a o short	huge ²	27 43 20
12 ɫ syllabic l	38 æ a	jump	20 34 03 01
13 r r	39 e a long	likely ³	11 47 21 11 41
14 ɾ syllabic r	40 ε e short	measure ²	03 40 18 14
15 θ th hard	41 i e long, ee, i, -y	phone ²	04 32 10
16 ð th soft	42 I i short	push	01 31 17
17 š sh	diphthongs	quake ²	24 39 21
18 ž -su-, -si-, etc.	43 yu u long	seed	08 41 07
19 č ch; = tš	44 oi oi, oy	shore ²	17 33 13
20 ĵ j, g soft; = dž	45 au ou, ow	town	06 45 10
21 k k, c hard	46 əə au, aw	toy	06 44
22 g g hard	47 ai i long	voice ²	05 44 08
23 ŋ ng		without	28 42 15 45 06
24 qu kw		yes	29 40 08
25 x hard = ks	¹ ə is called <i>schwa</i> , and = unstressed ʌ. It is frequently used in place of other unstressed vowels, and so can be confusing to the new reader.		
26 x soft = gz			
27 h h			

²A final e is often silent.

³ = like + suffix -ly;
final e in like is silent.